

"His Friend, Miss McFarlane"



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BOSHIER

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Doubleday, Page & Co.
New York

Nomads of the North
JAMES OLIVER CURWOOD

HIS FRIEND, MISS MCFARLANE, Kate Langley Boshier's latest novel, is a clean and readable story reflecting certain aspects of life in the South. While negligible with respect to literary value, it is calculated to afford pleasure to a good many readers, more particularly young people. The principal characters are a mountain boy, ignorant but ambitious, poor and ill treated, but with a high sense of honor, and an aristocratic young woman who takes an interest in him and whose friendship determines his destiny. The boy's father is dead and his mother, dazed by her bereavement, has been tricked into a second marriage by a scoundrel, Steff Goode, the horror of which kills her. So the child is orphaned and under the control of his cruel stepfather. The characters are not altogether convincing, being rather hastily drawn.

Some of the incidents lack credibility, as the mother's marriage, the boy's effective scheming to get himself sent to a reformatory so that he could go to school, and his writing long letters in the face of such difficulties. To the average small boy composition is an unpleasant business not to be needlessly engaged in, and certainly not to be entered upon at the risk of dire punishment.

His Friend, Miss McFarlane, shows a desire to do for the boys' reform school what Mrs. Boshier did for the orphan asylum in *Mary Cary*, her best seller of several years ago. The woes of unloved and neglected childhood oppressed by institutional coldness and harshness should appeal to every heart, but they seem insufficiently realized in the present story. The suggested idea for reform of such institutions by appointment of women to the boards of control is admirable.

The author shows sympathy for wild childhood and with the poor, and her book is likely to arouse new interest in the methods of caring for neglected children.

Miss McFarlane is, of course, beautiful and charming and has more than one suitor. Her love affairs add to the reader's entertainment.

HIS FRIEND, MISS MCFARLANE. By KATE LANGLEY BOSHIER. Harper & Brothers. \$1.50.

A Montana reader reports asking for Thomas Hardy's *Dynasts*. The trained librarian replied: "No. We haven't all of Hardy. You see, limited as we are financially, we never have all the books of an author unless he is remarkable in some way. Like Cooper or Dickens or any of the standard authors."

Philip Gibbs's War Despatches

IN the two volumes entitled *The Way to Victory* have been gathered together all of Philip Gibbs's newspaper despatches published between the opening of the famous first attack by the British tanks, on November 20, 1917, to the day after the armistice became effective, November 11, 1918. The first volume is entitled *The Menace* and ends in the early days of May of last year with what Mr. Gibbs thought then was *The Failure of the German Offensive*. In the second volume, called *The Repulse*, there is a summary of the events between May 2 and August 28, when the daily stories are resumed again in practically unbroken succession until the final one dated November 12, the day after "the fires of hell had been put out."

Among all the correspondents who went to the front Mr. Gibbs remains the outstanding figure of the war. Col. Swinton, whose distinguished despatches signed "Eye Witness," were the finest accounts written in the early days of the war, was recalled to other military duty. Our own Frederick Palmer became a member of Gen. Pershing's staff and thus passed from the ranks of daily newspaper correspondents. So Mr. Gibbs was left without a rival in his chosen field, to what brilliant achievement the reading world knows and acknowledges. What he has now to say in these two volumes is to be found in a preface to each. In the first of these he explains in detail why Byng's attack at Cambrai with the tanks failed by a narrow margin of holding what it had won, why the Germans won in the great offensive of March 21, and of the turning of the tide in June, when the American Army first showed its mettle in the field in force. This preface seems to have been written at that time, when Mr. Gibbs, in common with all military men, was of the opinion the war had still a long way to go before the Germans were actually beaten. He even wrote: "The enemy will fight like a wounded tiger to protect his own frontiers and by falling back under pressure to shorter lines will maintain a long and desperate defence." But how different is the tone of the introduction to the second volume, which he wrote

during his present visit to this country. Here he writes of Gen. Foch's "daring intelligence"; how he took his "trump card," the "trained American divisions who had been fighting in the Argonne and in Lorraine," and with that trump "played and won the game there on the Marne." That was Foch's army of reserve which the German General Staff pretended to believe was non-existent. But it was not until September 2 that Mr. Gibbs "believed, for the first time, that the German army was at the breaking point; and when later our English troops of the Midlands, with the Americans on their left, crossed the great Canal of St. Quentin and went clean through and beyond the Hindenburg line, I knew that the Germans were defeated utterly."

Mr. Gibbs says he does not agree with the Americans who hold to the opinion that the armistice came too soon. He says the German armies were "utterly and absolutely defeated" by November 11. The Germans "accepted the stern conditions of Marshal Foch without a murmur, and they left behind them on their way out of France and Belgium the broken bits of their war machine. . . . The German peasant and workman will not fight again in our generation. So our victory was complete—our military victory which came after many tragic years." And he closes this preface with a passionate appeal for another kind of victory, the "victory of ideas over material force" which for him takes the form of the League of Nations.

THE WAY TO VICTORY. By PHILIP Gibbs. Two volumes. George H. Doran Company. \$5.

Hugh Walpole will visit the United States next fall, probably arriving in September.

Printers call the compression to which a book is subjected in binding the "smash." Scene: A book printing plant. Foreman, at the telephone, to publisher on the other end: "So, I understand you want *My Antonia* heavily smashed and *Henry Adams* lightly smashed. . . . Why, I won't even break the crystal of his wrist watch!"

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